

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) proposals for construction of Yatri Niwases at Madurai and Yelegiri were prioritised for central financial assistance in consultation with the Government of Tamil Nadu during 1999-2000. During the current financial year a project for construction of Yatri Niwas at Kodaikanal has been prioritised.

(c) and (d) Maintenance and upkeep of tourist places is the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory concerned. However, Central financial assistance is provided by the Central Department of Tourism for tourism projects identified in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations. During the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 thirty-two projects of Yatri Niwases were approved and an amount of Rs. 1294.79 lakhs was sanctioned by the Central Department of Tourism for these projects in the country including Tamil Nadu.

Preservation of Temples in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

3229. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hampi treasure enlisted as World Heritage site is not being preserved properly;

(b) whether temples in Gorantla, Lepakshi and Tadipatri are required to be properly preserved; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to preserve the site properly with the cooperation of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka as it reflected history of Telugus and Kannadigas?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The centrally protected monuments in Hampi, Karnataka and those at Gorantala, Lepakshi and Tadipatri in Andhra Pradesh are in a fairly good state of preservation.

The cooperation of the respective State Governments are sought as and when required.